

Del. 1, U.S. 13 to be diverted in Odessa-Townsend area

By Ryan Kelley
Special to the Transcript

ODESSA - The Odessa-Smyrna section of Del. 1, the last piece in the state's 13-year roadway puzzle, is slated for completion in just over a year.

Work on the project, though, will cause some immediate changes for drivers on U.S. 13 and Del. 1 in the Odessa-Townsend area.

Southbound U.S. 13 traffic will be diverted onto Del. 1 via Del. 299 at Odessa for about three days during the week of April 29, depending on the weather, said DelDOT spokesman Mike Williams.

Then, all that southbound traffic on Del. 1 will have to merge into one lane

south of Odessa for a few hundred yards, where Del. 1 and U.S. 13 currently merge. After the brief bottleneck, both lanes will be open to carry traffic to the current U.S. 13 southbound.

The exact days of the construction will be posted on DelDOT's website at www.deldot.net and announced on DelDOT radio at 1380 AM.

Northbound traffic will not be affected.

After that three-day period, southbound U.S. 13 will re-open south of Odessa, but traffic will be detoured onto Harris Road (formerly Frontage Road) all the way to Pine Tree Corner Road near Townsend. Harris Road will have one lane for southbound traffic and one

lane for northbound traffic.

This southbound U.S. 13 detour will last about a year.

Delays are expected, especially during the first few days of the switch. Southbound motorists may want to use other roads such as Del. 896, Del. 71, and Del. 9, Williams said.

Police officers will be stationed in Odessa during the first three days to reroute traffic onto Del. 299 and again onto Del. 1 south at the interchange.

Only people who live on U.S. 13 south of Odessa or who are visiting businesses in that area will be able to continue south on U.S. 13.

"Either stay on Route 1 from the canal or get on Route 1 at (Route) 299, if you're committed to taking

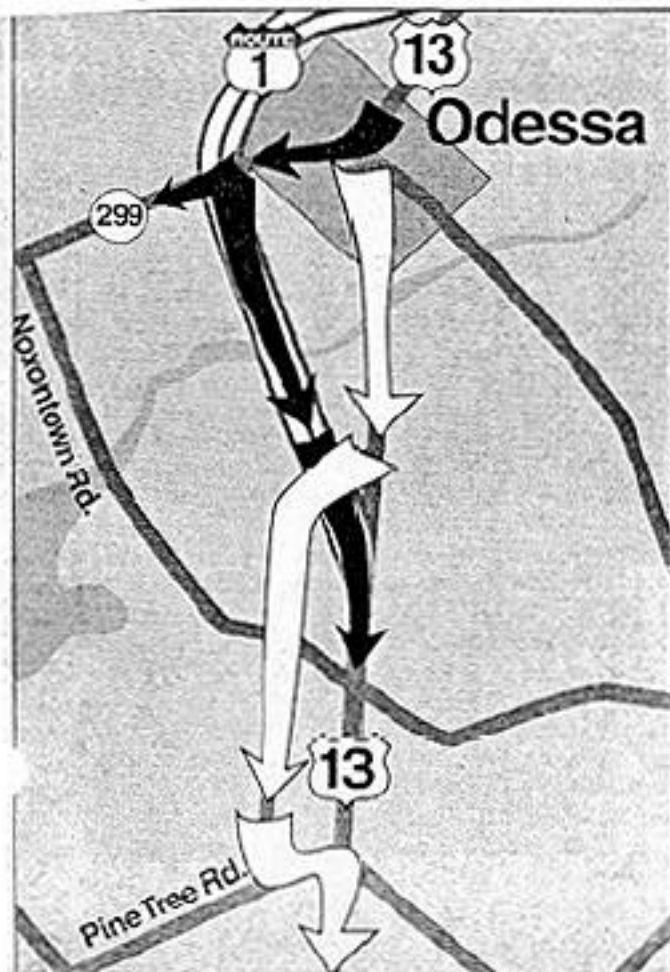
Route 13. Once you reach the 299 intersection in downtown Odessa, turn right to get on the Route 1 ramp," said Williams.

After the first three days, Del. 1 southbound will be re-opened to two lanes south of Odessa, carrying traffic to the current southbound U.S. 13 near Noxontown Pond Road.

On the southbound U.S. 13 detour that will continue for about a year, DelDOT officials expect delays at the intersection of Harris and Pine Tree Corner roads near Townsend, where traffic will have to stop at a stop sign and turn left to get back to U.S. 13.

Drivers coming from Old State Road and Sycamore Farms who want to go south on U.S. 13 will first have to go north to Harris Road to get to the southbound U.S. 13 detour.

This last stretch of the Del. 1 project is scheduled for completion in mid-2003, a few months ahead of schedule.



The black arrows show how traffic will be detoured from southbound Route 13 onto either Route 299 or Del. Rt. 1 for a period of about 3 days. From the point where traffic on Del. 1 rejoins Route 13, it will be reduced to one lane up to Noxontown Rd. Route 13 will be limited to local access only between Route 299 and the point where Del. 1 rejoins it.

For a period of one year, southbound Rt. 13 traffic will be detoured onto either Route 299 or an access road parallel to Route 13 up to Pine Tree Rd., as shown by the white arrows.